

PELOSI and Representative JOHN BOOZMAN in a bi-partisan effort to raise funds for Alzheimer's research through the issuance of a semi-postal stamp.

The petition of support for the issuance of an Alzheimer's semi-postal has been pending at the United States Post Office for over 4 years. It is long overdue that we honor this petition and allow Alzheimer's the opportunity it deserves to benefit from this public awareness and fundraising campaign.

The race to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease is now more urgent than ever. Four and a half million Americans, including one in 10 people over age 65 and nearly half of those over 85, have Alzheimer's disease. Unless science finds a way to prevent or cure this terrible illness, as the baby boomers continue to age, nearly 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease by the year 2050.

Mr. Speaker, we need to help and give hope to those who are fighting the moment to moment physical, mental and behavioral battles of Alzheimer's every day. We need to help and give hope to the behind the scenes heroes—the family care-givers who selflessly offer their love and care. And we need to help and give hope to the researchers working hard to find a cure. Working together we can do more—and we must. We must do everything we can to ensure that one day Alzheimer's is a disease of the past and issuing a semi-postal stamp can help do just that.

The best way to fight Alzheimer's disease and reduce the number of patients who suffer is to find ways to prevent it before it starts. Investments we make now mean longer, healthier lives for all of us. If we can delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease by even 5 years, it would save this country billions of dollars—and would improve the lives of millions of families. We can act now to strengthen our commitment to prevent Alzheimer's and to finding a cure for this devastating disease.

Semi-postal stamps are special stamps which were authorized by Congress as a tool for the United States Postal Service to not only raise funds but awareness of worthy causes. An Alzheimer's stamp would allow the public to directly contribute to research funds by charging a higher price than normal postage for the stamp and allocating most of the proceeds to research on this insidious and debilitating disease. We simply cannot afford to wait another minute, or another four years until we give Alzheimer's the attention and opportunity it deserves. I hope that the Postal Service will act and help to make a difference in the future by allowing us to contribute to Alzheimer's research through a semi-postal stamp today.

#### TRIBUTE TO ELMER STOCKER

#### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 27, 2005*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that the members of the House of Representatives allow me to bring to their attention the good works of a man who has long been active in the rural electrification program in Indiana and who is now approaching his well-deserved opportunity to retire from the field. While his retirement will leave a large void of

experience, activity and judgment for rural electricians in Indiana, and for his community in Indiana, which will not be easy to replace, today's comments are meant to remind us all of the many people around our nation whose unceasing efforts contribute to the betterment of our quality of life.

Mr. Elmer Stocker, currently the CEO of the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc., will retire on December 31, 2005. He will end nearly 40 years of service in the electric industry. During that time Mr. Stocker has worked his way up through the ranks from entry-level position to industry leader. He began service with Whitley County REMC in 1966 in the dispatch and work order department of the cooperative. Over the years he also worked in the accounting, member services and marketing departments, developing a hands-on appreciation of all aspects of the electric utility business, and working with customers on their needs and expectations. In 1975 he became Assistant Manager, and in 1976 he began working as executive vice president/general manager of Whitley County REMC. During that time he not only ran the daily operations of his cooperative, but used his talents as a leader to serve as president of the REMC Managers Association in Indiana and as president of the Board of Directors of Wabash Valley Power Association, the generation and transmission cooperative that provides wholesale power to cooperatives throughout central and northern Indiana.

In 1986 Mr. Stocker left Whitley County REMC to work for 11 years at Wabash Valley power, where he was vice president of member and corporate relations and vice president of marketing. During that time he also moved onto the regional stage, serving a term as vice president of the Great Lakes Electric Consumers Association.

In 1997 the board of directors of Indiana Statewide, recognizing Mr. Stocker's knowledge of the program and respect among his peers at a time when the electric industry was facing tumultuous change, asked Mr. Stocker to serve as CEO of the trade group. He took up that leadership role from 1997 until this day.

This impressive record of professional achievement is only a part of Mr. Stocker's role in the American community however. During this time of advancement in his employment, Mr. Stocker also engaged in numerous personal and civic activities that are even better representative of the qualities that are at the foundation of American communities. For example, Mr. Stocker pursued post-secondary education while holding a full time job, and received his bachelor degree from Indiana University in 1975. He served in the Army National Guard from 1964 to 1970.

As a community leader, Mr. Stocker took on the role of Whitley County United Way Drive Chairman. He joined and rose through the ranks of the Masons and Scottish rite. He served as an officer of the Aboite Township Community Association and as president of the Times Comer Little League. He was a long time active member and volunteer in the Columbia City United Methodist Church, and was a member of the board for the Carmel Dad's Club. Among all these roles, he fit in time to join the Indianapolis Airport Rotary Club as well.

As a family man, a community volunteer, and a professional member of the electric util-

ity industry in Indiana, Elmer Stocker has exemplified the best values of American life for many years now. I wanted to share with the members today that this good man will soon enjoy the satisfaction of reaping the rewards of his long service through a well-deserved retirement, in which I am sure he will continue to volunteer good works. Thank you for indulging me in this time today, and especially thank you to Elmer Stocker for all he has given to our proud State of Indiana.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND JAMES WILLIAM BESSERT

#### HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 27, 2005*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend James William Bessert as he celebrates the 25th anniversary of his ordination as a Roman Catholic priest.

As many do, I know him simply as Father Jim. I am proud to call him a friend and join with so many others in offering our congratulations to Father Jim, a servant of God who has truly dedicated himself to walking the path of Christ.

In his 25 years as a priest, Father Jim has shared the Good News and his gift of music since his first ordained assignment as associate pastor of St. Maria Goretti Parish in Bay City to his present calling as pastor at St. Brigid of Kildare Parish in Midland, Michigan. I am especially privileged as a graduate of St. Brigid School and native son of the parish to acknowledge Father Jim's positive impact on the church and the school communities.

At a time when some parishes and schools face the heart-wrenching challenge of decreased membership and enrollment, St. Brigid is experiencing a rebirth on both accounts. The pews are filled with families and the sanctuary resounds with worshipful song. Since he arrived at St. Brigid in 1999, Father Jim's vision and example have proven a reason for this blessing in downtown Midland. With a shepherd's care, he walks with the flock of St. Brigid in learning and loving the way of Christ.

As the members of the community of believers, we offer our prayers and congratulations to Father Jim on his silver anniversary as a priest and wish him many more years of inspired and inspiring leadership. We pray that the sustaining strength of the Spirit continues to guide him.

On behalf of Michigan's Fourth Congressional District, may God continue to lead Father Jim to do His will.

#### IN HONOR OF SERGEANT MICHAEL EGAN, UNITED STATES ARMY

#### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 27, 2005*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Army Sergeant Michael Egan, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of his country on September 19, 2005 at the age of 36. While on patrol near Ramadi, Sergeant Egan's convoy came under ambush